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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/544,102	02/23/2006	Roelof Marissen	4662-55	7740
23117	7590	12/23/2008	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC			CUMBERLEDGE, JERRY L.	
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ARLINGTON, VA 22203			3733	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/23/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/544,102	MARISEN ET AL.
	Examiner JERRY CUMBERLEDGE	Art Unit 3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 and 15-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-8 and 15-17 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/146/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bonutti et al. (US Pat. 7,094,251 B2).

Bonutti et al. disclose a kit for constructing a bone fixing device comprising at least two fixing plates (Fig. 22) and a surgical cable (Fig. 22, ref. 34), the surgical cable has a first end and a second end (Fig. 22), and wherein the at least two fixing plates include a first fixing plate and a second fixing plate (Fig. 22) respectively having multiple central holes (Fig. 22) and first and second rings (Fig. 22), wherein each of the first and second fixing plates has an outer edge (Fig. 22) defining an outer circumference thereof (Fig. 22) and an inner edge (Fig. 22) defining a respective one the central holes, wherein the second fixing plate is positionable into contact with a bone part to be fixed (Fig. 22) and the first fixing plate is positionable in a stacked position on top of the second fixing plate when positioned against the bone part to be fixed so as to establish a gap therebetween (Fig. 22) such that the first and second central holes at least partly

overlap each other (Fig. 22), wherein each of the first and second ends of the cable is connectable to the first and second fixing plates (Fig. 22) to form the bone fixing device such that at least one of the first and second ends of the cable follows a continuous trajectory having sequential trajectory parts comprising an initial trajectory part (i) running from outside the outer edges underneath the second ring and up to the second hole (Fig. 22), the at least one end of the cable thereafter bending upward into a first upward trajectory part (a) running through the second and the first holes (Fig. 22), respectively, bending to an outward trajectory part (b) running across the first ring in a direction from its inner edge toward its outer edge (Fig. 22), bending to a downward trajectory part (c) outside at least the outer edge of the first ring running in a direction opposite to the first upward trajectory part (Fig. 22)(a), bending to an inner trajectory part (d) running through the second central hole of the second ring (Fig. 22), wherein the inner trajectory part (d) includes one and other ends (Fig. 22), the one end thereof being connected to a first radial trajectory part (e) running through the gap established between the first and second fixing plates and the other end thereof being connected to a second radial trajectory part (f) running underneath the second ring (Fig. 22).

With regard to statements of intended use and other functional statements, they do not impose any structural limitations on the claims distinguishable over the device of Bonutti, which is capable of being used as claimed if one so desires to do so. *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). Furthermore, the law of

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anticipation does not require that the reference "teach" what the subject patent teaches, but rather it is only necessary that the claims under attack "read on" something in the reference. *Kalman v. Kimberly Clark Corp.*, 218 USPQ 781 (CCPA 1983). Furthermore, the manner in which a device is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). Specifically, the plates of Bonutti include holes through which the cable can be wrapped around in the claimed manner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 and 15-17 allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JERRY CUMBERLEDGE whose telephone number is (571)272-2289. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3733
/Eduardo C. Robert/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733